The People's Korea

No.1,827 OCTOBER 17, 1998 http://www.korea-np.co.jp/pk/ (1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可)

Rajin Business Institute Opens

Ms. Kirsten Jorgensen (left), deputy resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pyongyang, and vice chairperson responsible for economic affairs in Rajin City (right) cut the ribbon before going a short guidance tour to RBI facilities.

The double inaugural meeting for the Rajin Business Institute and the Rajin Business Information Center was held on Sep. 24 at a lecture hall of Rajin University in Rajin City, the DPRK, with about 1,600 participants attending it.

The founding ceremony which was opened with an address by President Chong Yong Taek of Rajin University, was blessed by Kirsten Jorgensen, deputy resident representative of the UNDP in Pyongyang, V. Suvaganam, UNIDO Country Director, China, and others, who made congratulatory speeches.

Here we introduce scene highlighting the opening ceremony and RBI facilities in photos (See on page 2), and an interview with Kim Gwang Yon, president of the RBI.

Interview with RBI President

Q: How have you prepared for this project?

Kim: We have spent two years to open the Rajin Business Institute which is a joint project between the DPRK government and U.N. development agencies.

We went to great lengths to obtain books, computers, small buses and other equipment, which were worth the trouble.

The most serious problem was the lack of human resources. Thus, we invited foreign scholars from Singapore and Thailand for lecture. We also sent some 20 promising students to the two Asian countries on a 5-month business study programme.

About US$ 1.6 million has been spent for this purpose in the past two years, according to arrangements by us, the UNDP, UNIDO, and some overseas Koreans including Ms. Kim Cha Yon, president of Team International, the U.S., who donated teaching materials worth US$ 300,000 for this project.

Q: What's the RBI's structure and scale?

Kim: The Rajin Business Institute is a body affiliated to Rajin University.

At present, this institute enrolls 1,500 students. Rajin University consists of five departments - Maritime Transportation Department, Finance Department, Economic Management Department, RBI, and a night school.

Students are given opportunities to learn business English, business finance and accounting, banking and project finance, inventory control and equality assurance, service and tourist industry management, etc. in parallel with general investment theories.

RBI puts special emphasis on computer science and foreign languages. It provides an English training course, and will start a Chinese course from Oct. 1, and will open a Japanese course in the near future.

The period of school terms depends on majors which students choose, and the school courses of five years and six months, five years, and six months are offered.

Now, efforts are being made to train those who are able to work at local restaurants, shops and hotels. (Sources say that a Rajin foreign-invested hotel has already proposed to employ 500 graduates...Ed.)

Q: What's the function and role of the Rajin Business Information Center?

Kim: The Rajin Business Information Center is aimed at integrating and systematizing a subject-wise information structure concerning the Rajin Sonbong economic zone, and offering convenience to foreign investors as well as domestic researchers and students.

It is equipped with a management information system/LAN using five PCs and one server, and a library management computer system for more than 1,500 English-language books, journals and supplementary training materials, including software packages.

The center, now located at within the library of Rajin University, will be relocated to a downtown area of Rajin City in accordance with developments and progress in the situation.

We always welcome donation of related materials to the center.

European Charity Withdraws Voluntarily Ending Aid Project

Pyongyang has denied alleged reports by Western media outlets that a European medical relief group was forced to withdraw from the DPRK, suspending its activity to help north Korean flood victims.

A spokesman for the DPRK Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee said on Oct. 5 that the Paris-based Medicines Sans Frontieres withdraw from its operation in the DPRK voluntarily, since the organization judged that the DPRK government-proposed new relief operation project was outside the scope of their activities. **(See the full text on page 5)**

"The DPRK asked William Claus from the MSF in Brussels to end the assistance project that was underway and to offer raw materials for pharmaceutical production in the next stage... He replied that as his organization was to offer medical and pharmaceutical products in the form of emergency assistance, not raw materials for medicines, his organisation would withdraw at the end of the assistance project and that he would introduce another relief organization which would offer raw materials for medicines," the spokesman said.

In an interview with a KCNA reporter, the spokesman said the government of the DPRK has asked the international community for assistance aimed at increasing the country's capacity of phermasuitical production in the same way as the country has done in the agricultural sector.

Meanwhile, Eric Goemaere, the MSF's director general said on Sep. 30 in Hong Kong that the north Koreans told the MSF team the emergency was over and the organization should swich its efforts to supplying raw materials to their factories to enable them to build up a pharmaceutical industry.

The last of the international MSF teams left the DPRK on Oct. 1 after working continuously for 16 months running drug distribution programs, and training programs and supporting therapeutic feeding centres and health structures.

WFP Denies Alleged N. Korea's Food Diversion

A senior World Food Programme official said on Oct. 10 that he had no evidence that north Korea had diverted food aid and urged donors to maintain help for its flood victims.

(Continued on page 8)

First American Windpower Village Establihsed in DPRK

Here we introduce a statement by Peter Hayes, executive director of the Berkeley-based Nautilus Institute, on the completion of the first American windpower village project in the DPRK.

According to a press release on Oct. 6, Dr. Hayes said in Beijing after leaving the DPRK that a team of five American engineers had completed construction of seven wind turbines in Unhira Village in Nampo.

"At a time when the US-DPRK Agreed Framework signed in 1994 is under strong attack in the US Congress, this private cooperation on wind power is in striking contrast to the slow progress in implementing the official KEDO project in north Korea whereby the United States is to supply heavy fuel oil and two light water reactors," he said.

The following is the full text of the press release:

BEIJING, OCTOBER 6, 1998 — Peter Hayes, Executive Director of the Berkeley-based Nautilus Institute announced today in Beijing after leaving North Korea that a team of five American engineers had completed construction of seven wind turbines in Unhira Village.

At the same time, he released via the Internet a set of photographs of the US-DPRK Village Windpower Project which provide a unique glimpse into North Korea's almost closed rural society.

"Our experts have built seven towers and installed wind turbines on each of them to power the medical clinic, the kindergarten, and household humanitarian electricity needs in Unhira Village," said Hayes.

"We turned on the system on October 5th and we are generating electricity in North Korea to meet humanitarian end uses," he said.

"In addition to making power, we have also supplied compact fluorescent light bulbs for the kindergarten and twenty households," he added.

"About fifty North Korean engineers, technicians and laborers from the village worked shoulder-to-shoulder alongside the American team," he stated.

"There was a friendly spirit in the field at all times. We were impressed with how fast the North Koreans learned how to install and operate the American equipment," he noted.

"The American and North Koreans also jointly conducted a rural energy survey and a socioeconomic assessment in the village—the first time that such standard international project planning methods have been employed in the DPRK."

"At a time when the US-DPRK Agreed Framework signed in 1994 is under strong attack in the US Congress, this private cooperation on wind power is in striking contrast to the slow progress in implementing the official KEDO project in North Korea whereby the United States is to supply heavy fuel oil and two light water reactors," he said.

"The North Koreans clearly wanted this project to succeed," he said.

"We were allowed to film video and take photos almost without restraint in a highly militarized zone. We went into households and conducted detailed interviews and physical surveys of the use of energy in the village economy. The North Koreans went the extra mile to make this project succeed."

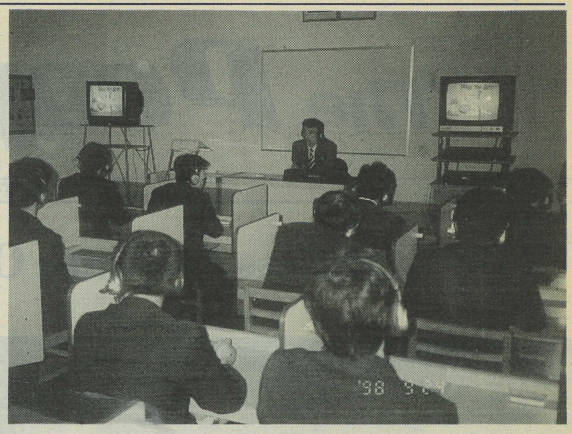
"Perhaps they are trying to say something to Washington about cooperation, if only Washington would listen and take yes for an answer," he concluded.

"And maybe they are trying to explain

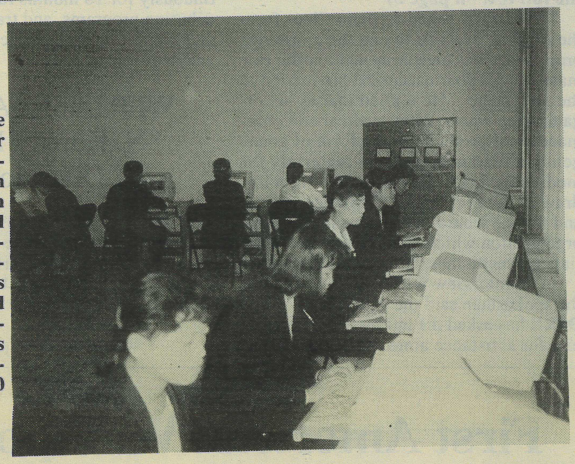
(Continued on page 8)

Photos Highlight RBI

Nearly 1,600 students, teaching staffs, government officials and U.N. development agencies officials from the UND and UNIDO participate in the opening ceremony of the Rajin Business Institute (RBI) and the Rajin Business Information Center (BIC) on Sep. 24.



Students of Rajin Business Institute hold a demo session of English conversation at a language laboratory of the institute. Currently, RBI has English and Chinese language programs, and is ready to teach the Japanese language.



Students use a computer learning system in RBI in order to learn international and trade issues effectively. RBI has networked computer facilities (Intranet) provided by 20 PCs.

Ms. Susan Kim Cha Yon (second from left), president of Team International, an American-based international company, gives a congratulatory briefing at an RBI class room which is built by a part of her donation to RBI. Ms. Kim, Korean resident in the U.S. donated US$ 300,000 for constructing institute facilities.

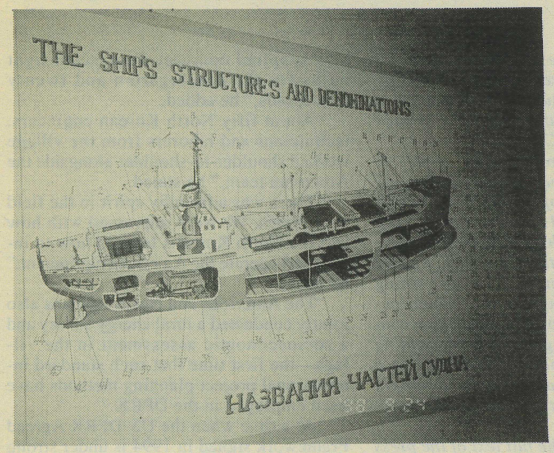
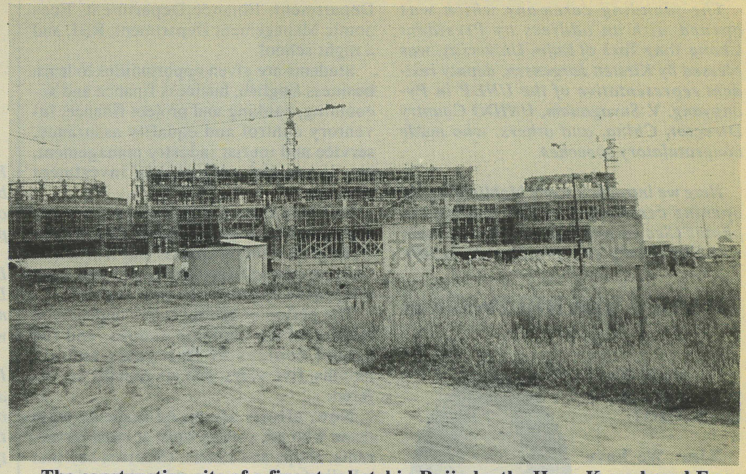
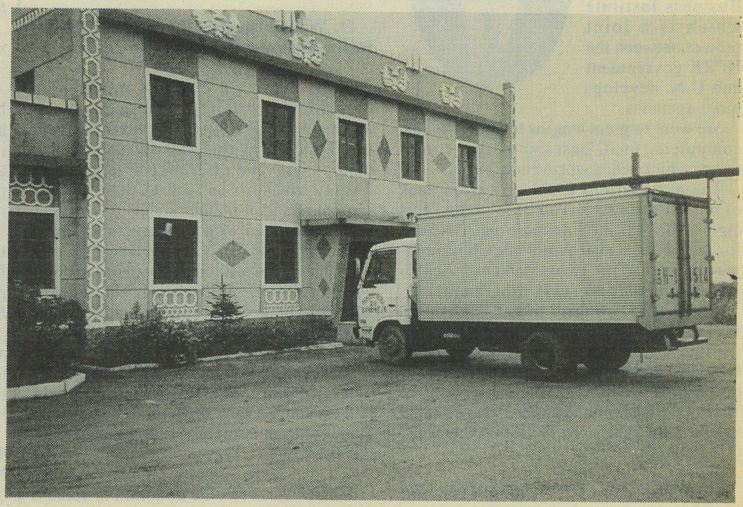


Photo shows a design of a ship's structure and denominations at RBI, written in Korean, English and Russian languages. RBI has over 2,000 pages of training modules on 12 subject areas prepared by its expert lecturers.



The construction site of a five-star hotel in Rajin by the Hong Kong-based Emperor Group.

The gate of Rajin University, the parent school of RBI. RBI is one of the five faculties of the university, including those for Maritime Transportation, Finance and Economic Management. The establishment of RBI is part of a joint project between the DPRK and the U.N. development agencies to develop the Rajin Sonbong Economic and Trade Zone within the framework of the Tumen River Area Development Programme.



A fish reprocessing factory in Rajin.

DPRK's 1997 Trade Turnover Increases

The DPRK's trade turnover in 1997 grew to a total value of some US $2,498 million, which is broken down into $1.02 billion for export, up 20.9% and1.47 billion for import, up 3.5%, compared with the previous year.

The figures were released by JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) last August based on custom clearance statistics covering 51 countries and regions.

According to the business body, substantial growth was noted in the DPRK's export of gold which totaled $14,188 million, up 4.5 times higher than the previous year.

Meanwhile, the country spent $131 million last year to import 70 million tons of grain, which is five times higher than the previous year.

JETRO added the top three trade partners which accounted for 59% of the DPRK's total trade turnover in 1997 were China, Japan and south Korea.

DPRK's Total Trade Turnover in 1996 and 1997

Total Trade Turnover			Export			Import		
1996	1997		1996	1997		1996	1997	
value	value	growth	value	value	growth	value	value	growth
2,271.9	2498.9	10.0	848.0	1,025.6	848.0	1,423.9	1,473.3	3.5

(Monetary unit = US $1 million, growth = %)

UNDP Report on DPRK's Agricultural Situation and Recovery Plan (6)

37. The organisation and management of co-operative farms also reflects traditional forms of rural social organisation. Farms are now located in rough accord with the boundaries of the traditional rural ri or "sub-county". The size and membership of work teams and, in particular, sub-work teams often mirror the structures and locations of older rural villages or "joint" family groups. Co-operative farm solidarity and community spirit have been strengthened because of these links to rural social structures and tradition. Contemporary co-operative farm management depends heavily on the strength and resiliency of these traditional social bonds.

38. Co-operative farmland use and management priorities reflect these different economic and social currents. A first priority, reflecting the influence of Juche, is self-sufficiency. Farms are expected to meet the basic food requirements of their own members (Cf. sub-section 1.3.3 on Marketing of Farm Produce). They should also earn enough cash income to finance the operating costs of their educational and health services and to meet community and household needs for clothing and other consumer goods.

39. The second production priority centres on the need to meet the farms' established share of nationally defined goals for the production of food grains and other agricultural commodities. These first two goals — self sufficiency plus a contribution to national food needs — provide the framework for basic land use planning and annual farm management decisions.

40. The third priority is to maintain the integrity and vitality of the co-operative's internal social organisation. Much of this work is straightforward — for example, achieving community consensus on proposed investments in schools or social centres or on the allocation of funds for recreational or cultural activities. Other institutional tasks are more complex, such as allocating difficult work tasks and responsibilities — and sharing rewards — in accordance with the skills and needs of work teams and sub-work teams as well as individuals. These institutional needs are met in part by well-understood management and decision-making systems. But they depend for their legitimacy on the traditional and usually very strong social ties that hold the co-operative together.

1.2.2 Cereal Production

41. The Annual Work Plan (AWP) preparation process for co-operative and state farms is always driven by the national need to achieve food grain self-sufficiency. AWP procedures set cereal production targets and establish requirements for agricultural inputs, mechanised services, and labour. Production above levels needed for the co-operative's own needs is sold at officially administered prices. Profits from the sale of cereals and other crops or livestock are used to finance the maintenance of schools and clinics and similar co-operative responsibilities. Co-operatives also set aside funds for the replacement of farm machinery and for the payments of pensions for members. Any additional proceeds from the sale of cereals or other crops are divided among co-operative members according to a "work point" system that measures individual contributions while also establishing incentives for work team and sub-work team cooperation.

42. Co-operative and state farms were historically able to meet national needs for cereals. From the outset, however, food grain production was an energy-intensive undertaking, designed to succeed — and able to succeed — only at a time when energy was readily available. Farming practices emphasised "chemicalisation", with the intensive use of inorganic fertiliser and other, usually petroleum-based, agro-chemicals. Paddy and maize fields were engineered to take full advantage of the potential for mechanisation. Irrigation systems were designed to respond to the country's lack of natural storage reservoirs by depending heavily on electrically powered surface water pumping.

43. Essentially all land with any potential for rice or maize production was brought under the plough. Increasingly expensive and environmentally problematic tidelands reclamation and drainage projects were undertaken to increase arable land. The use of chemical fertiliser, insecticide and herbicide was intense. Research focussed heavily on developing higher yielding varieties, but not enough on reducing dependence on chemical inputs or lowering fuel and electricity requirements.

44. While farmers successfully met national cereal needs, production in reality depended heavily on imports. Direct imports helped meet fertiliser needs and provided most other agro-chemicals as well as petroleum and fuel for tractors and trucks. Domestic industrial sector production in support of agriculture also was heavily dependent on imports of raw materials ranging from petroleum feed stock for the fertiliser industry to coke for the steel needed for machinery manufacturing.

45. Since the late 1980's, rice and maize were produced on 580,000 and 600,000 hectares of land respectively, accounting for some two thirds of the country's arable land. All rice production occurs on irrigated, Class I ("Excellent") or Class II ("Good") land (Cf. Table below). Of the 600,000 hectares allocated for maize, only one third is irrigated. Most of the rest is grown on Class II or III land that does not have permanent irrigation.

46. Under optimum conditions (i.e. favourable climatic conditions and appropriate inputs), paddy yields could range from 6 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) in the East Coast to 8 t/ha in the Western Plains, averaging 7 t/ha throughout the country. Over the last four years, paddy yields however fell by some 70 percent to 2.4 t/ha in 1996. Although crops clearly were affected by

(Continued on page 4)

Rice & Maize Areas by Land Classification

	Rice	Maize
Class I ("Excellent")	34%	33%
Class II ("Good")	66%	29%
Class III ("Poor")		38%
Total	100%	100%

Background: Quotes from Late President Kim Il Sung

"The rural question presents itself in different lights at different stages of the development of the revolution. In the stage of the anti-feudal democratic revolution, the peasant and agricultural questions consisted in emancipating the peasantry from exploitation and enslavement by the landlords...We solved these questions successfully by carrying out land reform, on the principle of confiscating the landlords' land and distributing it to the peasants without compensation...

In the stage of the socialist revolution, the peasant and agricultural questions consisted in emancipating the peasantry ...from every kind of exploitation and oppression, and in completely freeing the productive forces of agriculture from the old production relations based on private ownership... We have solved these questions by carrying out the socialist cooperativisation of agriculture...

For the successful solution of the peasant and agricultural questions under socialism, it is imperative to adhere firmly to three basic principles in rural works: First, the technical, cultural and ideological revolutions should be thoroughly carried out in the rural areas. Second, the leadership of the working class over the peasantry, the assistance of industry to agriculture and the support of the towns to the countryside should be strengthened in every way. Third, the guidance and management of the rural economy should steadily be brought closer to the advanced level of management of industrial enterprises...

Irrigation, mechanisation, electrification and chemicalisation are the four fundamental components of the technical revolution in the countryside.

Extracts from the "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question" (February, 1964)

Annex O: Rice Production by Province
(Paddy, in Million tonnes)

Province/Municipality	1989 Actual	1990	1991	1992	1993	Avg. 89-93	1994	1995	1996	1997 Est.	1998 Proj.	1999 Proj.	2000 Proj.
North Hamgyong	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.17	0.05	0.12	0.06	0.09	0.05	0.07			
South Hamgyong	0.40	0.44	0.44	0.49	0.29	0.41	0.30	0.21	0.14	0.10			
Kangwon	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.15	0.18	0.13	0.09	0.06	0.05			
East Coast	**0.70**	**0.73**	**0.76**	**0.84**	**0.49**	**0.71**	**0.49**	**0.38**	**0.25**	**0.22**			
North Pyongan	0.62	0.79	0.64	0.68	0.83	0.71	0.60	0.25	0.20	0.13			
South Pyongan	0.93	0.89	0.74	0.79	1.03	0.88	0.79	0.39	0.24	0.27			
Nampo Municipality	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.15	0.12	0.11	0.07	0.06	0.08			
North Hwanghae	0.33	0.41	0.33	0.37	0.43	0.37	0.12	0.15	0.11	0.19			
South Hwanghae	1.23	1.16	1.09	1.25	1.36	1.22	0.77	0.55	0.38	0.48			
West Coast	**3.23**	**3.37**	**2.92**	**3.19**	**3.80**	**3.30**	**2.39**	**1.41**	**0.99**	**1.15**			
Ryanggang	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01			
Chagang	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02			
Pyongyang Municipality	0.27	0.26	0.29	0.27	0.30	0.28	0.20	0.14	0.11	0.13			
Kaesong Municipality	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.09	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.04			
Inland Region	**0.39**	**0.38**	**0.41**	**0.41**	**0.45**	**0.41**	**0.24**	**0.21**	**0.17**	**0.20**			
Total DPRK	**4.32**	**4.48**	**4.09**	**4.45**	**4.75**	**4.42**	**3.11**	**2.00**	**1.41**	**1.57**	**2.15**	**3.19**	**3.48**
Population(Mn)	19.77	20.08	20.40	20.73	21.06	20.40	21.38	21.70	22.03	22.36	22.65	22.94	23.24
Rice Equivalent (Mn t)	3.24	3.36	3.07	3.34	3.56	3.31	2.18	1.40	0.98	1.10	1.50	2.30	2.61
Per Capita Production (kg/pers/year)	164	167	150	161	169	162	102	64	45	49	66	100	112
(Gr/day)	449	458	412	441	463	445	279	176	122	135	182	274	308

Sources: Actuals from DPRK (Agricultural Commission). Projections by UNDP/FDRC

Annex P: Maize Production by Province
(in Mn tonnes)

Province/Municipality	1989 Actual	1990	1991	1992	1993	Avg. 89-93	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 Proj.	1999 Proj.	2000 Proj.
North Hamgyong	0.36	0.38	0.21	0.26	0.17	0.28	0.19	0.13	0.09	0.04			
South Hamgyong	0.46	0.47	0.50	0.40	0.28	0.42	0.41	0.15	0.09	0.01			
Kangwon	0.24	0.13	0.20	0.15	0.16	0.18	0.19	0.09	0.02	0.02			
East Coast	**1.06**	**0.98**	**0.91**	**0.81**	**0.61**	**0.87**	**0.79**	**0.37**	**0.20**	**0.07**			
North Pyongan	0.64	0.65	0.70	0.69	0.73	0.68	0.53	0.11	0.10	0.22			
South Pyongan	0.62	0.57	0.56	0.52	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.15	0.10	0.15			
Nampo Municipality	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.01			
North Hwanghae	0.50	0.43	0.54	0.41	0.44	0.46	0.37	0.14	0.08	0.05			
South Hwanghae	0.82	0.58	0.71	0.60	0.75	0.69	0.62	0.29	0.11	0.30			
West Coast	**2.65**	**2.31**	**2.59**	**2.32**	**2.56**	**2.49**	**2.14**	**0.73**	**0.42**	**0.73**			
Ryanggang	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01			
Chagang	0.18	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.19	0.06	0.06	0.07			
Pyongyang Municipality	0.17	0.18	0.20	0.19	0.25	0.20	0.12	0.07	0.05	0.03			
Kaesong Municipality	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.01			
Inland Region	**0.45**	**0.41**	**0.48**	**0.41**	**0.48**	**0.45**	**0.39**	**0.17**	**0.13**	**0.12**			
Total DPRK	**4.34**	**3.90**	**4.20**	**3.72**	**3.94**	**3.94**	**3.55**	**1.37**	**0.83**	**1.01**	**2.07**	**2.30**	**2.68**

Conditioned Amnesty Angers S. Korean Inmates

Human rights groups say Kim Dae Jung's "sweeping" Aug. 15 amnesty turned hope into burning rage, benefiting only a fraction of hundreds of political prisoners in south Korea.

Leaving behind 400 or so prisoners of conscience nationwide, 94 people were freed after they answered a controversial questionnaire asking: "How will you obey the law (including National Security Law) if freed?"

Angrily reacting to the conditioned amnesty ordering them to obey the infamous NSL — the very law under which they were thrown behind iron-bars for frame-ups — the rest of the political inmates chose to remain in prison chambers rather than answering the simple written statement.

To them, including "forgotten" long-term political prisoners who had served for 20-40 years, the questionnaire smacked of former regimes' "conversion statement," in which inmates were asked to renounce communism to gain freedom.

Take some. (Source: Los Angeles Times 9/28/98)

Kang Yong Ju, 36, has been serving for 13 years for handing videotapes to students who, the authorities say, were "spies for north Korea."

Kang's mother tries to see him every month, travelling eight hours on three buses to see him for a maximum of 30 minutes daily that is allowed prisoners' families.

Although she knew her son had refused to answer the written questionnaire, she nevertheless went to the prison on the Aug. 15 "amnesty day" hoping for a miracle.

Only one of the five prisoners of conscience at Andong was listed. It was not her son. When she visited that day, it was the first time he cried in front of her, not being able to touch her hand through the glass.

"I would be able to go out to meet you and end your agony, but I couldn't accept the authorities' demand that I show my inner thoughts to them for their judgement," Kang wrote to his mother.

"I will remain healthy until Sept. 22, 2006, when my term ends, but my heart is aching, thinking that you are 73 now. Please, mother, live long, live long. Your son Yong Ju."

Min Kyong Woo is serving a 3 and half year sentence for exchanging faxes with north Korean students counterparts via Tokyo. Min is an official in the Seoul branch of the Pan National Alliance for the Reunification of the Fatherland (Pommminryun), a Pyongyang-based pro-unification group with branches in Berlin and Tokyo.

"We consider north Koreans our brethren, our fellow citizens. We are neither for the north nor for the south," his wife said. "We are for Korea. This is not treason - this is patriotism."

Some of the prisoners, such as Cho Sang Rok, the man who hasn't seen his daughter for two decades, have all but abandoned hope.

In a guest lecture he gave while pursuing a doctorate in Tokyo in 1976, Cho criticized the military government's attempt to change the constitution.

When he returned home, he was sentenced to life for "spying."

Asked about the daughter he hasn't seen since she was 2 week old, bone-thin Cho, now 52, replied with his eyes filled with tears: "I don't want to talk about that because it's too painful."

His wife's family forced her to divorce him after he was sentenced and she left with the baby for the U.S.

South Korea's largest human rights group, Minkahyup, denounced the questionnaire, saying that many political prisoners regard it as humiliating.

"How can they swear to obey the very law against which they have fought?," claimed Nam Kyu Su, a Minkahyup spokeswoman.

International legal experts joined in the attack, claiming that the questionnaire is highly unusual in a "democratic society," where such questions are asked only as a condition of being naturalized or taking public office.

"It's a little shocking to hear that they are still doing that under Kim," said James Feinerman, chairman of Asian legal studies at Georgetown University Law Center. "You punish someone when they violate the law, but you don't make it a condition of their release that you promise not to violate the law."

While the prisoners of conscience are asked to submit the questionnaire to gain their release, thousands of other petty criminals such as pickpockets were released unconditionally in Kim's amnesty program last August.

More than 240 prisoners of conscience were jailed after Kim took office in February, the largest number of political prisoners at the beginning of any south Korean president's term.

All of them were held in violation of the NSL, which bans virtually all contacts with north Korea, and Kim's "sunshine policy" has backfired now.

Often described as "draconian," the anti-north law, has been abused by the past regimes to silence dissidents, and human rights groups are criticizing Kim for not seeking a repeal of the law under which he was grilled, abducted and even sentenced to death.

What's News in S. Korea

A U.S. ship will lead U.S.-south Korea military drills this month from Japan as part of a scenario which supposes U.S. command centers in south Korea have been destroyed, a report said.

The Japanese Asahi Shimbun quoted U.S. military sources in Japan as saying the 18,372-tons Seventh Fleet flagship Blue Ridge will direct the drills in the Sea of Japan and south Korea from the U.S. naval base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo.

The arrangement, which will follow last year's accord between Tokyo and Washington to enhance defense cooperation around Japan, signifies Yokosuka could become a command base in an emergency situation on the Korean Peninsula, the major daily said.

The U.S. military base in Japan and south Korea will conduct nine-day joint drills with the south Korean military from October 24.

South Korea pays 2.2 billion dollars a year to help maintain the force of around 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country, a white paper on defense showed on Oct. 7.

The white paper on defense for 1998-99 showed that Seoul contributed a total of 2.2033 billion dollars in support of U.S. forces in south Korea last year through cash payments and real estate services.

The amount represents 15 percent of the 1997 defense budget of 13.97 trillion won (9.9 billion dollars in currency terms.)

Sexual harassment is rampant in south Korea's male-dominated workplace, with 44.3 percent of women complaining of being groped by male colleagues, survey showed on Oct. 7.

The poll, cited by the Korea Herald newspaper, found that 39.2 percent of the women admitted having experienced groping during "coerced" slow dancing with male workers at company functions.

Another 13.4 percent said men touched them intentionally, 5.9 percent said touching was made on the pretext of doing "part of the job," and 2.7 percent reported being raped.

Verbal abuse was more frequent, with some 76.5 percent saying women had been subjected to constant comments on their body, lewd jokes and cursing.

The survey showed that 38.9 percent complained of excessive staring while 33.3 percent said men zeroed in on their breasts or buttocks.

The prosecution is investigating allegations that scores of politicians and businessmen sneaked huge amounts of money out of south Korea during the Kim Yong Sam administration.

The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office has already launched a probe into allegations of unauthorized real estate purchase in other countries by politicians during the past government, a prosecution official said on Oct. 2.

The special investigation into the alleged capital flight, will continue till the end of this month, he said.

The list of people to be covered by the special investigation includes Kim Hyun Chol, the second son of former chief executive Kim Yong Sam, several conglomerate owners and politicians.

They are still suspected of having smuggled huge amounts of wealth out of the country to purchase high-priced property in foreign countries, including the United States.

Rumors that Kim Hyun Chol had illegally bought real estate abroad has been circulating for some time, say observers.

During a parliamentary hearing on the bribe-for-loans scandal involving the collapsed Hanbo Iron and Steel Co. last year, lawmakers grilled Kim on his alleged purchase of overseas real estate but the full details of his purchase were not discovered.

During a trial last year, the younger Kim was acquitted on charges of peddling influence to make several banks give huge loans to Hanbo.

Noise at a U.S. bombing range in the Taebek mountains in Kangwon Province is so consistently loud that it scares wild animals and disturbs their traditional habitat, according to a recent survey by civic group.

The Green Coalition, a leading environmental group, conducted the survey of noise levels over the course five days in the vicinity of the U.S. bombing range in the northern mountains.

The survey, which began on Sep. 14, found decibel levels averaging 85 dB and peaking at 103 dB.

The environmental group claimed that wild animals have disappeared in large numbers from the mountainous areas since 1979, when the bombing range was established.

It speculated that the disappearance of the animals was caused by deafening noises and vibrations from aerial shooting and bombing raid exercises that are conducted throughout the year.

The environmentalists say that exposure to noises of over 85 dB for an extended period of time causes heart problems, hearing loss, and headaches in humans, and disturbs wild animals' natural environment.

The current economic woes are contributing to an increase in the number of divorces and separations, it was reported on Sep. 27.

According to a recent poll by a presidential committee on women's affairs, 18.5 percent of the men who have lost their jobs since last December were found to have divorced or to have considered divorce.

Of those polled, 7.7 percent of unemployed men have already divorced or have been living apart from their wives, and 10.8 percent of them are still living together, but are on the average of separation or divorce.

Among households in which the mother is the breadwinner, 12.3 percent of those surveyed were forced to take their children out of school.

In families in which the father is the primary wage-earner, 10 percent stopped schooling for their children due to the father's job loss.

More than 95 percent of female primary earners were found to be single mothers.

Kim Sung Kwon of the Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs surveyed 696 unemployed people in the cities of Seoul and Pusan in order to find out about their living conditions.

Of those polled, 65 percent were found to have another unemployed person in the same family and there were some who had three jobless persons in their families, he said.

The average monthly income of those polled amounted to 780,000 won, about half the amount they earned before the economic crisis. And each was learned to incur an average monthly debt of 220,000 won.

The real estate and movable assets in each person's possession had an average value of 30.75 million won and 13.46 million won, respectively.

The female breadwinners polled owned an average of 11.02 million won and worth of real estate and 5.36 million won worth of movable assets.

Their debts amounted to 3.54 million, thus bringing the value of their property down to a mere 12.84 million won.

(Continued from page 3)

the extreme variations in climatic conditions (hailstorm, floods and drought), yields declined by substantially more than can be explained by the direct effects of adverse weather conditions. As a result, paddy production fell to only 1.5 million tonnes in 1996 and 1997, against an average of 4.4 million over the 1989-93 period (Cf. Diagramme on page 28 and Table in Annex O).

47. Maize yields declined even more than those of paddy, mainly because 25 percent of maize was grown on non-irrigated, hilly areas. Maize production barely reached one million tonnes in 1996 and 1997, compared to a 3.9 average over the 1989-93 period (Cf. Diagramme on page 28 and Table in Annex P).

Pyongyang Repatriates Remains of Five U.S. Soldiers to Washington

Pyongyang on Oct. 9 returned to Washington five sets of remains of U.S. servicemen who died during the 1950-53 Korean War.

Soldiers of the Korean People's Army handed over five aluminum caskets containing the remains to the American-led U.N. Command at the truce village of Panmunjom inside the Demilitarized Zone.

The latest excavation work is the fourth round of five joint search operations between the DPRK and the U.S. for U.S. remains scheduled for this year.

"The U.S.-KPA (Korean People's Army) Joint Technical Assistance Team currently operating in north Korea unearthed the remains," a U.N. Command statement said.

During the ceremony at Panmunjom, Canadian Minister of Veteran Affairs Fred Mifflin, along with 100 Canadian government officials, about 100 American and Canadian war veterans, also attended the ceremony.

According to a UNC official, the five sets of U.S. remains were sent to the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii for possible identification.

Since 1990, in total, Pyongyang has returned 227 sets of remains to Washington through the truce village of Panmunjom.

The latest development was the third time since both countries conducted the first joint excavation operation of the U.S. Korean War dead on July 1996 under a breakthrough agreement between the two countries to begin their first joint search for U.S. remains in May 1996.

Footstep of U.S. Remains Recovery Works

The DPRK's repatriation work of the U.S. Korean War dead started in 1954, a year after the cease-fire of the Korean War. Under the Armistice Agreement in 1953, Pyongyang returned the remains of as many as 4,023 U.S. soldiers to Washington that year, though both sides were technically in a state of war.

After a long interval of 36 years, the DPRK, from a humanitarian point of view, returned remains of five American servicemen to the United States in 1990.

Aiming at improving diplomatic relations between both sides, the DPRK and the U.S. began to secretly hold working-level contacts in Beijing from Dec. 6, 1988, and the contacts continued until June 1993.

The DPRK and the U.S. on Aug. 24, 1993 agreed to jointly tackle the question of returning the remains of American soldiers. Both sides decided on the procedures and ways of survey and unearthing of U.S. remains and their delivery; and bilateral cooperation in unearthing the remains.

However, the dialogue was often suspended due to the American side's refusal to pay the cost for the unearthing of U.S. remains.

Paving a way for Pyongyang-Washington rapprochement, Pyongyang had returned 208 sets of U.S. remains in humanitarian efforts since 1990 until 1995.

Breakthrough

In January 1996, Senior Col. Pak Rim Su, deputy chief of the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army, visited Hawaii to attend MIA talks as the first military official of the DPRK since the truce of the Korean War. As there was no definite agreement reached at the Hawaii meeting, they met again in New York in May 1996.

After six days of negotiations between May 4 and 9, 1996 in New York, the DPRK and the United States reached a breakthrough agreement to begin their first joint search operation for the remains of U.S. soldiers. At a meeting in Pyongyang in June 1996, the both sides agreed that there would be three excavation projects in 1996. Each project would last 20 days and would consist of 10 U.S. military aided by 90 north Koreans.

As the first step of the landmark agreement, in May 1997, the U.S. agreed to pay due compensation to the DPRK for its earlier efforts to locate the U.S. remains — US$ 104,000 per joint excavation project — and for the manpower, materials, facilities, etc., related to the future unearthing of remains.

The first joint excavation operation was conducted at Unsan, a small village near Pyongyang between July 11 and 27, and one set of remains of an U.S. soldier was discovered.

Since then, twenty sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers have been unearthed, including the latest five sets of remains, and returned by the DPRK-U.S. joint recovery operations. There was only one project in 1996 and three in 1997, but the number increases to five in 1998.

In addition to the development of the joint exhumation work started in 1996, Pyongyang, for the first time since the Korean War, allowed American governmental researchers to access the DPRK Korean War archives to review American-related records in Pyongyang's military museum.

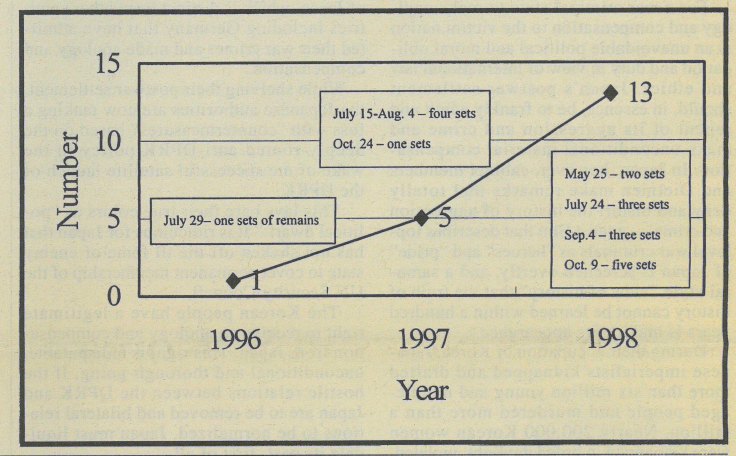
More than 50,000 American servicemen were killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, and, according to the U.S. side, about 8,000 of them are still unaccounted for. Washington said that it would recover remains of as many as 4,000 of more than 8,000 U.S. soldiers unaccounted for from the Korean War by joint search operations.

The recovery of remains of American war dead from the Korean War is a key factor in improving ties between the DPRK and the U.S. and a stepping stone toward peace in the Korean Peninsula.

Statistical Data of DPRK-U.S. Joint Hunt for GIs' Remains (1996-98)

Since 1990, in total, Pyongyang has returned 227 sets of remains to Washington through the truce village of Panmunjom. Of those, 46 were returned between 1990 and 1992 with the United States reimbursing the DPRK for the cost of search and recovery. Between 1993 and 1997, the north Koreans returned 168 sets of remains to the Americans.

During four rounds of five joint search operations in 1998, the DPRK returned 13 sets of remains to the U.S.



DPRK on European Charity Withdrawal from Aid Work

PYONGYANG, October 5 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee of the DPRK had an interview with KCNA today over false reports broadcast by some countries after the organization "Medicines Sans Frontiers" (MSF) withdrew from the DPRK at the end of emergency medical assistance.

He told KCNA:

The MSF stayed in the DPRK for emergency offer of medical and pharmaceutical products to the DPRK in temporary difficulties caused by years of natural disasters.

Their assistance encouraged the Korean people in the effort to heal the aftereffect of natural disasters at an early date. We are grateful for their assistance.

The assistance from international agencies and donor nations is effectively used to help the DPRK not only overcome the present difficulties but also attain the objective of reaching the pre-disaster level at an early date.

Recently, the government asked the international community for assistance aimed at increasing the DPRK's capacity of agricultural production, decided to use the medical assistance to increase the local capacity as in the agricultural sector and asked international agencies and donor nations for assistance.

The international community favors this effort of the DPRK.

Under this policy of the government, the Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee asked William Claus from the MSF in Brussels who visited the DPRK in early August for discussions on future assistance, to end the assistance that was underway and to offer raw material for pharmaceutical production in the next stage. That would markedly increase the effect of assistance funds in the economic aspect. He expressed understanding about that proposal and replied that as his organization was to offer medical and pharmaceutical products in the form of emergency assistance, not raw material for medicines, his organization would withdraw at the end of the assistance and that he would introduce another relief organization which can offer raw material for medicines.

That was why the MSF withdrew from the DPRK. This being the fact, U.S., British and some other western mass media broadcast incoherent reports that the DPRK expelled the MSF and that the MSF suspended the assistance and withdrew because it was not allowed to treat cases of malnutrition and relief medicines and food were diverted to troops and specific quarters.

Now a certain donor agency calls for suspending food assistance to the DPRK, alleging that relief food is diverted to the army.

We consider this to be an act prompted by hostile forces hell-bent on frustrating humanitarian assistance to the DPRK. Humanitarian assistance agencies that stay in the DPRK are free to go to the areas under their concern, unless any special problem occurs, and relief materials are distributed to relevant areas.

Humanitarian assistance should be given from the humanitarian point of view in the true sense of the word.

If donor organisations give us humanitarian assistance, we will accept it gratefully, and if not, we will not beg for it.

North Probes Poisoned Gift Cattle Incident

Pyongyang suggested that someone in south Korea poisoned a herd of cattle donated to the north by a south Korean business tycoon in June, killing 71 of the 500 cattle.

Ri Song Ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK, said on Oct. 8 in a letter to his south Korean counterpart that a veterinary investigation into the deaths of 71 of the cattle shipped across the Military Demarcation Line in June had shown the animals had been fed pieces of plastic sheet and rope which had killed them.

His remarks are based on the result of the joint investigation between the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee and the Hyundai Business Group into the cause of the death of the cattle.

"As of October 6, 71 of 500 heads of the cattle donated by Jong Ju Yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Business Group, to the north on June 16 died of bleeding and obstruction of digestive organs. This death was caused by ropes and plastic sheet contained in their paunches," he said.

According to the result of the joint investigation, the ropes were made of a polypropolene resin which was not produced in north Korea, and 65% of the dead cattel had ropes in their paunches and others both ropes and pieces of plastic sheet.

Mr. Ri stressed, "Our side urges your side to pay due attention to this, detect and severely punish the criminal of this grave incident and take relevant measures lest such an incident should recur in humanitarian assistance."

The following are the data, delivered to the south Korean Red Cross Society:

At 09:00 on June 16, 1998, the north side took over 500 heads of the cattle from the Hyundai Business Group at Panmunjom.

During the period of their quarantine, veterinarians and keepers looked after them in a responsible way and took a strict measure to block others from approaching the veterinary quarantine ground after locating it far away from populated areas and local cattle.

Nevertheless, some of the cattle lost their vigor and did not eat well and consequently began to be weakened. As a result, 71 of 500 heads of the cattle died as of October 6. The cause of their death is ropes and pieces of plastic sheet contained in their paunches.

The volume of ropes contained in their paunches ranges from 400 grams to 36.5 kilograms. The number of the one with 36.5 kilograms is 263/181.

The volume of the plastic sheet contained in their paunches ranges from 200 square centimetres to 250 square centimetres.

Sixty five percent of the dead cattle had ropes in their paunches and others both ropes and pieces of plastic sheet. Most of the survivors are in bad condition and cases of death are being reported almost every day.

These ropes are identical to their reins in component and were made of resin, which is not produced in the north.

All facts prove that the cattle had fallen victims to ill-motivated deeds in the south before they were handed to the north.

KCNA

Japan Urged to Bring Fair Postwar Settlement

PYONGYANG, October 1 (KCNA) — The 20th century that has witnessed unprecedented events in the life of humanity is waning in vortex and the 21st century is drawing near.

At this historic juncture, it is a trend in international relations to liquidate unhappy things of the 20th century full of vicissitudes before greeting the new century.

There is, however, a cancer-like nation that tries to bury into obscurity its crime-woven past and repeat it, issuing a downright challenge to this trend of history and the effort of the international community.

It is none other than Japan. Not only war criminal states and satellite nations but also victor nations have liquidated or are liquidating the past, assuming responsibility for wartime crimes. At this time, only Japan is avoiding postwar settlement and behaving shamefully, far from admitting its history of aggression and crime. Japan is a war criminal state that plunged Asia into disaster.

For a war criminal state to make apology and compensation to the victim nation is an unavoidable political and moral obligation and duty in view of international law and ethics. Japan's postwar settlement should, in essence, be to frankly admit and repent of its aggression and crime and make unconditional material compensation. In Japan, however, cabinet members and Dietmen make remarks that totally deny and distort the history of aggression and crime — even a film that describes top-level war criminals as "heroes" and "pride" of Japan is screened overtly, and a samurai-style "view of history" that the truth of history cannot be learned within a hundred years is making its appearance.

During their occupation of Korea, Japanese imperialists kidnapped and drafted more than six million young and middle-aged people and murdered more than a million. Nearly 200,000 Korean women were kidnapped in broad daylight, violated, mutilated and burned to death.

This story is still thrilling humankind. The international community is indignant at Japan's colonial rule over Korea because it was the most brutal and heinous unethical crime in human history.

No matter how hard the Japanese authorities may try to distort and deny the history of crime and shameful plunder, this blood-stained history will neither be erased nor forgotten. To whitewash the past through denial and distortion of history is a suicidal act that will lead Japan's today and future to destruction.

Japan has no other alternative but to frankly admit the history of aggression and plunder, make unconditional and thorough state apology and compensation and abandon the anachronistic militarist ambition. This is a criterion of Japan's postwar settlement. Japan must utter a word carefully.

Before they boast of being a rich nation with "rapidly growing economy," they must remember that their silk quilt is stained with blood and sweat of the Korean people.

There are many wars, big and small, recorded in history and each of them was accompanied by murder, arson and plunder. But, there is no such nation as Japan that robbed other country of everything, even spoon and chopsticks.

Today's Japan is an empire of evil that has risen from the sea of blood of the Korean and other Asian peoples.

The Japanese authorities, however, are disguising themselves as victim by fabricating a fiction of "suspected kidnapping of Japanese" in an attempt to escape from their political, moral and historical obligation. This shows the savage, shameless feature and political and moral vulgarity of Japan, which is distinct from other countries including Germany that have admitted their war crimes and made apology and compensation.

While shelving their postwar settlement, the Japanese authorities are now making a fuss with "countermeasures" based on the deeply-rooted anti-DPRK policy in the wake of the successful satellite launch of the DPRK.

This lays bare their true colors as "political dwarf." It is ridiculous for Japan that has not shaken off the ill fame of enemy state to covet permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

The Korean people have a legitimate right to receive an apology and compensation from Japan. This right is indisputable, unconditional and thorough-going. If the hostile relations between the DPRK and Japan are to be removed and bilateral relations to be normalized, Japan must liquidate its past, first of all.

There can be no improvement in their relations without postwar settlement. If Japan continues avoiding postwar settlement, the Korean people's wrath, hatred and revengeful thought against their sworn enemy, Japan, will grow thousand-fold.

The Japanese authorities must be honest before history and make a political decision not to delay the atonement for their past crimes against the Korean people till the 21st century.

If Japan continues avoiding postwar settlement without making an honest apology and unconditional compensation to the Korean people, it will be criticized by the international community as the most savage, shameless and politically and morally despicable nation ever in human history.

NK Paddlers Win Silver Medal At Asian Championship

DPRK girl paddlers' team made strong showing at an international table tennis meeting held in Japan, winning second place among top Asian players.

The 14th Asian Table Tennis Championship was staged at the Osaka Central Gymnasium on Sept. 28 - Oct. 4, participated in by about 400 players from 34 countries including China, Hong Kong, north and south Korea and Kazakhstan. Five north Korean women also entered the competition.

In the team event, north Koreans gained berth to the final vanquishing Kazakhstan and Jordan in the first and second rounds and Taiwan in the next round respectively 3-0, and beating Hong Kong players in the second final 3-2.

North Korean paddlers on Sep. 30 faced the top favorite Chinese team in the final. Although the north's Kim Hyun Hui, the fifth winner at the Atlanta Olympics, won a victory over her Chinese rival Ri Ju, the world's second-ranking player, they lost the final game to finish second.

North Korean manager An Yong Il analyzed the main cause of his players' defeat in the final, saying that they lacked of experience in international games.

However, in an interview with the Japanese daily Asahi Shimbun, he said, "I am very satisfied with the result, as we aimed to place third or higher in the team competition. They stayed at a facility called the Tennis Center near Pyongyang for a month to train themselves all day."

He was quoted as saying that the north's men's team, which did not participated in the Asian meeting due to lack of preparations would compete in the coming Asian Championships to be held in Bangkok in December.

"In the next championships, the women's team aims to win a gold and men's team a medal. We will get down to hard training after we go back to our country," he added.

North Korean paddlers stand on an awarding platform after they took second place at the 14th Asian Table Tennis Championship held in Osaka on Sept. 28 - Oct. 4.

Analysis of Legal Liability of Government Of Japan for 'Comfort Women Stations' Established During Second World War (2)

(Continued from the previous issue)

3. The Japanese Government has recently offered a number of public apologies for the "problem" of the "comfort women." Most notably, in July 1995, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama noted that "the scars of war still run deep" and that the "problem of the so-called 'wartime comfort women' is one such scar, which, with the involvement of the Japanese military forces of the time, seriously stained the honour and dignity of many women. This is entirely inexcusable. I offer my profound apology to all those who, as wartime comfort women, suffered emotional and physical wounds that can never be closed." [Statement by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, July 1995, reprinted in Asian Women's Fund (an official programme description). See also Japan's policy on the issues of violence against women and "comfort women" (E/CN.4/1996/137, annex) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session.]

4. Despite these apologies and admissions, the Japanese Government continues to deny legal liability for the Japanese military's actions with respect to the "establishment and management" of the comfort stations (see E/CN.4/1996/137). In particular, in responding to a report by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on violence against women, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (E/CN.4/1996/53/Add.1), the Japanese Government has forcefully denied legal liability on a number of substantive grounds, the most significant of which include: (a) that recent developments or advances in international criminal law may not be applied retroactively; (b) that the crime of slavery does not accurately describe the system established through the "comfort stations" and that the prohibition against slavery was not, in any event, established as a customary norm under applicable international law at the time of the Second World War; (c) that acts of rape in armed conflict were not prohibited by either the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention No. IV of 1907 or by applicable customary norms of international law in force at the time of the Second World War; and (d) that the laws of war would only apply, in any event, to conduct committed by the Japanese military against nationals of a belligerent State and would not, therefore, cover the actions of the Japanese military with respect to Japanese or Korean nationals, since Korea was annexed to Japan during the Second World War (ibid.).

5. Following the Government of Japan's apologies for the Japanese military's direct involvement in the "comfort stations", the Japanese Government established in July 1995 the Asian Women's Fund "to protect women's human rights in Japan and the world." [Asian Women's Fund, ibid.] The Asian Women's Fund supports women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) "which take steps to alleviate problems women face today"; provides counselling services for women; supports research and academic study; holds meetings and conferences to address issues affecting women; and, with respect to the "comfort women", promotes "the desire to convey to these women the sincere apologies and remorse felt by the Japanese people" through "atonement" funds that are raised directly from donations made by the Japanese public. [Ibid.]

6. With respect to claims for legal compensation, the Japanese Government argues that individual "comfort women" have no right to such compensation. Alternatively, the Government of Japan also argues that any individual claims that these women may have had for compensation were fully satisfied by peace treaties and international agreements between Japan and other Asian States following the end of the Second World War. Finally, the Government of Japan additionally claims that any civil or criminal cases concerning the Second World War rape centres would now be time-barred by applicable statute of limitations provisions (see E/CN.4/1996/137).

(To be continued)

Korea Inside Out (1)

Location

Korea is located in the heart of East Asian Continent.

The northern extremity is lat. 43 00'36" N. (Pungso-ri, Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province), the southern extremity lat. 33 06'43" N. (Is. Mara, South Cheju County, Cheju Province), the western extremity long. 124 10' 47" E. (Is. Pidan, Ryongchon County, North Pyongan Province) and the eastern extremity long. 131 52'40" E. (Is. Tok, Ullung County, North Kyongsang Province.)

Korea uses the local mean time at the mer. 135 E.

Its territory consists of the Korean Peninsula extending southward with 4,198 islands dotting around it, including Korea's largest Cheju Island, the Ullung and Tok Islands.

Korea has an area of 222,209.231 square kilometers, of which the islands constitute 5,974.655 square kilometers. The area of north Korea is 122,762.338 square kilometers, while south Korea 99,446.893 square kilometers. The maximum width from east to west is 645.25 kilometers.

Korea has land borders with China and Russia in the north, bounded by the Amnok and Tuman Rivers, and is bordered by seas on the east, west and south. The land boundaries are 8,103 kilometers while the coastline 18,313.44 kilometers.

Climate

The average annual temperature of Korea is around 8 to 12 degree C. and it is distinguished by seasonal changes.

Precipitation is moderate. The average annual rainfall is 1,120 mm, which is higher than the average global precipitation which is 800 mm.

Due to the seasonal winds the rainfall is particularly profuse in summer or the farming season. This is favorable for raising rice and other crops.

Korea is alternately visited by different air currents, causing climatic variations according to season. In winter, cold and clear weather prevails due to the dry and cold north and northwest winds. In summer, damp and warm south and southeast winds blow from the sea, bringing heavy rainfall. The rainfall during the summer season accounts for 50 to 60 percent of the total annual rainfall.

In spring and autumn, relatively warm and clear weather prevails with little rainfall.

Climate also differs according to region. This is because Korea lies stretched from the north to the south on the middle latitudes where latitudinal variations in the amount of solar radiation are greatest, and in addition, it has a complicated terrain and surrounded by seas on three sides.

Seas

Korea is maritime country, sea-bound on three sides. It has the East Sea of Korea, the West Sea of Korea and the South Sea of Korea, all of which are linked with Pacific Ocean.

Thirty seven percent of Korea's territorial water is 1,000 meters deep. The average depths are as follows:

The East Sea 1,668.2 meters, the West Sea 39.3 meters and the South Sea 442 meters. The deepest spot, which is in the East Sea of Korea, is 3,699 meters.

The East Sea of Korea is wide and deep and less affected by the water flowing from inland. The water is clear and its salinity is the highest among the three seas of Korea. In contrast, the West Sea of Korea is shallow and greatly affected by the water flowing from inland.

Land of Morning Calm

Korea is homogeneous nation and called Democratic People's Republic of Korea in conventional long form, while "DPRK" in abbreviation.

People love to call Korea "Choson" i.e. "Land of Morning Calm," referring to its crystal-clear morning beauty.

According to historians, the name of the country "Choson" became widely known abroad as early as the 7th century BC

The English name of the country "Korea" derives from "Koryo," a first unified state which existed in the Korean Peninsula for 500 years since 918 AD

Some says that the name of "Koryo" came from "Kosansuryo," meaning "rich in picturesque high mountains and clear waters."

Mountains account for almost 80 percent of the whole territory. Its average elevation is 440 meters above sea level. There are over 100 mountains more than 2,000 meters high. The highest is Mt. Paekdu (2,750 meters) which stands on the northern border. Besides Mt. Paekdu Korea has many high mountains such as Mts. Kumgang, Myohyang, Chilbo, Kuwol, Chiri and Halla, all of which command superb scenic views.

Others claim that it originates from "Koguryo," said to be the largest and strongest feudal state in the period of Three Kingdoms, which existed from 1st century B.C. to 668 A.D.

I Am A Korean

Story of Legendary Pro-wrestler Rikidozan

Here is the 39th installment of the series of the story on legendary pro-wrestler Rikidozan written by Korean writer Ri In Ho;

Chapter 4
5. Contest with Rue Thez Again (2)

The Professional Wrestling News made its appraisal of the contest between Rikidozan and Rue Thez:

"The latter half 30 minutes of this match showed Rikidozan's one-sided dominance. If it was decided according to the ways of professional boxing, Rikidozan would have won by the score of 23 to 21."

On October 13, their second bout took place at the Osaka Pool. Professional Wrestling commentator Dazuru wrote in a weekly:

"From the start of the match that evening Rikidozan watched for an opportunity to use his karate chop. Rue Thez guarded against it. When he saw danger, he fled beyond the ropes. He played the game, widening the range of his movement. Rue Thez continued to have the upper hand.

"When four minutes passed, Rikidozan cried to change over from an arm spread to pressing down. Rue Thez tactfully slipped out and escaped the outside of the ropes. He was quick and adroit in slipping away. Seven minutes passed and Rikidozan succeeded seizing Rue Thez's leg. He tried to throw down Rue Thez and bring his shoulders to touch the ground. Rue Thez held the chest of Rikidozan and pushed him down. When 14 minutes passed, Rikidozan attempted to bring down Rue Thez by holding his neck. At this moment he was caught in the latter's forte back drop. As in the first match, his waist was low but the angle of his falling body was steeper. He lost a fall first at 15 minutes.

"The bell rang again for the start of the game. Rikidozan was not yet quite restored to himself. At this moment Oki Shikina jumped up to the ring and shouted something to Rikidozan. This dazed Rue Thez for a while, preventing him from attacking. So Rikidozan gained time. When 24 minutes passed, Rikidozan slipped out luckily of Rue Thez's strangle hold on his neck and rushed away over the ropes. Vexed at Rikidozan's escape, Rue Thez turned on the umpire. Then, rising, he hit Rikidozan with his fist. Now, in an attempt to sweep him off his feet, at a stroke, he flew upon Rikidozan by using the backlash of the ropes. At this moment Rikidozan gave him a blow with a level karate chop. The big frame of Rue Thez turned a somersault in the air before falling to the floor of the ring. He could not rise. So Rikidozan gained a point at 25 minutes, bringing the score to one to one.

"...The two wrestlers were at grips. Rikidozan now applied a headlock on Rue Thez. The latter locked his arms round Rikidozan's waist. Rikidozan sent his right leg between Rue Thez's thighs to block his killing trick... When 31 minutes passed, Rue Thez suddenly leaned against the ropes and lifted Rikidozan overhead. He then turned him round above the head a few times before he hurled him out of the ring. This was an 'air plane throw.' But at that moment Rikidozan grasped the rope swiftly, and the next moment the body of Rue Thez was floating in midair. Now two of them fell outside the ring together. The counting ended, but two wrestlers could not rise.

"The umpire declared a drawn game. Rikidozan fought in Tokyo and Osaka, but regrettably, failed to wrest the championship."

So, Rikidozan failed, after all, to carry off the world champion belt. He had bragged that he would get what he wanted to get without fail, but he could not worst Rue Thez. He only added to his weight. Rue Thez, 41, was worthy of being called a "Man of Steel." After 61 minutes of match, his breath and pulse were the same as before.

The next year Rikidozan visited the United States again. The object was to take away the world championship, to settle accounts with Rue Thez. On August 28 a match of strong international professional wrestlers for championship took place at the Olympic Auditorium of Los Angels. The auditorium was packed to overflowing.

When Rue Thez appeared in the ring, the audience gave him vociferous applause and cheers and threw flower bunches to the ring. He raised both hands high overhead in answers to their applause.

The bell rang. Rikidozan stood face to face with Rue Thez, and he was surprised. The eyes of Rue Thez were gleaming with bloodthirstiness, and menacing. Shouts came incessantly from the auditorium

"Show him the true worth of the Americans!"

"Let him come never again to Los Angels!"

Rikidozan turned his head and cast to a glance at the seats of coaches outside the ring. Oki Shikina was seated there with folded arms.

"I will put the haughty American's nose out of joint!" thought he to himself before going for Rue Thez.

His attack was terrific and reckless. He attacked in a state of excitement. In professional wrestling, excitement often lays a wrestler open to attack. While defending himself, Rue Thez watched for the unguarded moment.

"Rikidozan, don't be excited! Keep cool!" shouted Oki Shikina in vexation.

The agitated Rikidozan failed to hear his shout. Rue Thez flew like a shell at Rikidozan by making use of the ropes' backlash and hit his chest. Wary of his forte back drop, Rikidozan had hardly expected he would make a frontal attack. Rikidozan fell to the ground. He fell so hard that he could not rise. He thus lost a fall.

Oki Shikina came up to the ring. He said:

"Rikidozan, excitement will only lead to failure. Understand? This is your last bout with Rue Thez! If you fail to beat him, you won't be able to walk down from the ring on your own feet. Where do you think this is? This is Los Angels! Look at the audience down there. Look at the umpire. Do you except them to leave you alive? Remember. Strike at him with karate chops, hitting without letup whenever you see a chance. There's no other way to win. I mean your level karate chop."

Rikidozan nodded his head. The break ended and the match was resumed. He moved round along the edge of the ring while defending himself. He watched for a chance to attack.

(To be continued)

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Agreements bet. DPRK & For. Countries (July 7 - Aug. 18)

July 7
* A protocol of the second meeting of the permanent transport subcommittee of the inter-governmental committee of trade, economic and scientific and technological cooperation between the DPRK and Russian Federation.

July 20
* An agreement on cooperation in marine transport between the governments of the DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Aug. 7
* A protocol on 1998-2000 cultural exchange between governments of the DPRK and Egypt.

Aug. 18
* An agreement on mutual travel of citizens between the governments of the DPRK and Syria.

For. Dels to DPRK (May 18 - June 21)

May 18
* A delegation of the Shizuoka Prefectural Council to Promote DPRK-Japan Friendship.

May 24
* A delegation of the Dandong City Committee of the Communist Party of China led by General Secretary Guan Yong Guang.

June 13
* Jean-Jacque Graisse, assistant executive director of the World Food Program, and his party.

June 15
* A delegation of the TUV AIMAG party committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party headed by chairman Doltsongiin Dondog.

June 16
* A delegation of the International Association of the Russian Peace Fund and the Friendship Association led by Vladimir Maslin, first vice chairman.

June 21
* A delegation of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference led by Vice President Zhao Nanq.

Government Report on Rights Of Child in DPRK (5)

Submitted to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child

The following is the fifth installment of a situation report on the rights of the child in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea submitted by the DPRK government to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, adopted in February 1996.

C. Right to life, survival and development of the child (art. 6)

48. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not permit the slightest encroachment upon the life of the child and ensures children the best conditions for survival and development.

49. The right to inviolability of the person defined in article 78 of the Socialist Constitution does not make an exception for children, and their life is protected by article 56.

50. There is no provision for considering the life of a child, even a newborn, less important than that of an adult. On the contrary, a heavier penalty is due according to the Criminal Law if a crime is committed against a child (art. 153) or if a person has encouraged a minor to commit or take part in a crime (art. 132).

51. By strict directive of the public health administration organ, a ban is placed on illegal medical practices using the internal organs or parts of a human body, including those of children.

52. The principled requirement to provide children with the right to survival and development is intensively reflected in chapter 2 of the Law on Educating and Rearing Children, which stipulates the education and rearing of children at State and public expense, and in the Public Health Law as well as other laws and regulations of education (see sect. VII. A below).

D. Respect for the views of the child (art. 12)

53. Children are also unreservedly guaranteed, like other citizens, freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, demonstration, association and religious belief and the right to submit complaints and petitions provided for in articles 67 to 69 of the Socialist Constitution. This is on the assumption that the child is capable of forming his or her own views.

54. In special legal actions, the opinion of a child is to be considered carefully. Article 31, paragraph 2, of the Family Law stipulates that, when a child of more than six years of age is to be adopted, his or her agreement is needed. According to the Law on Nationality, the nationality of a child may be changed only with his or her agreement.

55. By virtue of article 147 of the Criminal Procedures Act, the voluntary testimony of a child has the value of evidence if it coincides with others and thus children are provided with the opportunity to take the floor in court directly or by proxy.

56. The details of the embodiment of the principle of respecting children's views are described in paragraphs 67 to 71 and 79 to 83 below.

V. CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

A. Name and nationality (art. 7)

57. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, every child is registered with the population administration organ and the identity registration organ and is issued with a birth certificate within 15 days from birth, in accordance with the regulations on identity registration. A birth certificate has the child's name, sex, birth date, birthplace, nationality and parents' names on it. By its birth registration, the child is endowed with the right to receive all sorts of social benefits. There have not been any cases of avoiding or overlooking birth registration.

58. Children, in principle, follow the family name of kinship, which is the national tradition. This is mentioned in article 26 of the Family Law: "Children shall follow the family name of their father. If this is impossible, they may follow that of their mother, and in case both parents are unknown, the population administration organ shall decide". Newborn children are traditionally named by their parents, grandparents or close relations and there is no legal regulation on how to coin names.

59. Children are guaranteed the right to nationality after birth by law. Article 62 of the Socialist Constitution reads: "The terms for becoming a citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are defined by the Law on Nationality," which provides that the nationality of a newborn child shall be decided mainly by blood ties and in some particular cases by birthplace. Under this principle, a child born of citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea irrespective of its birthplace and a child born in the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea between a citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a foreigner is also a citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

60. The nationality of a child born between an overseas citizen of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a foreigner is decided according to the will of the parents or guardians. That of a minor above 14 years of age follows the will of parents or guardians subject to the agreement of the minor. If the intention of a minor differs from that of his or her parents or guardians, the former has greater weight. If parents acquire or lose the citizenship of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the nationality of a child under 14 years of age is changed to that of the parents except that of a child between 14 and 16 years of age is changed only with his or her own agreement and the will of the parents. In this case, if the parents have no view or a different view, the intention of the minor is respected. If one of the parents who have the citizenship of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea changes citizenship the nationality of the child remains unchanged.

61. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, no child is found without nationality by the thorough implementation of the Law on Nationality. If there should be a child whose parents or relations are not known at all, the population administration organ would give it a name, register it and bring it up on its own responsibility.

B. Preservation of identity (art. 8)

62. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea respects the right of a child to preserve its identity, including nationality, name and family relation.

63. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not have any criminal or civil penalty of depriving one of or altering the whole or part of one's identity, including nationality, name and family relation. The name of a child who is 14 or more years old may be changed only if the child agrees, just like his or her nationality.

64. Even when parents have committed a crime and assume criminal responsibility, their children are not forced to give up or alter their relation with their parents.

65. The Japanese imperialists, when they were occupying Korea, pursued the policy of so-called "changing names" to deprive Korean people of both their family and given names and force Japanese names on them. This was one of the most vicious anti-human colonial policies of the Japanese imperialists, geared to national assimilation. After liberation, the Government let the people restore their names downtrodden by the Japanese imperialists, and protected them.

66. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government does not permit any encroachment upon the intrinsic identity of the nation and its descendants.

(To be continued)

Pyongyang on Kim Dae Jung's Trip to Japan

PYONGYANG, October 13 (KCNA) — The south Korean chief executive described his recent trip to Japan as "successful."

Upon his arriving in Seoul, he said the successes of his trip to Japan included a clear apology of the Japanese government for the past history, its grant of loan to the tune of US$ 3 billion and the signing of fishing agreement.

Anyone who knows history and nation and who has an elementary common sense of the DPRK-Japan relations can see without difficulty how ridiculous and humiliating his behaviour is.

As for what he calls "an apology" from Japan, it is no more than an empty talk made by Japan from the first days of its defeat in the war.

That is why a pressman of Southeast Asia observed, "after issuing this kind of statement (of apology), other Japanese people will come out and make some contradiction. So the result is zero."

By describing the "signing of humiliating fishing agreement" as "successful" the south Korean chief executive proved to be a man imbued with pro-Japanese flunkeyism and stand to the marrow. During his stay in Japan, he made no word about Japan's criminal "comfort women issue" which creates quite a stir among the world people for the present, and "claim to dominion over Tok Islet".

The press of south Korea are lamenting that the "fishing agreement" will cost the south more than 500 billion won a year. His describing it as "successful" brings his disgraceful treachery into bolder relief.

Japan's granting of the US$3 billion loan on his lips is little different from what the loans Japan has so far granted in a bid to increase economic dependence on Japan.

That is well known to the world and eloquently proved by a deficit of astronomical amount in trade with Japan.

In this situation the south Korean chief executive promised to open the door to the decadent Japanese culture and invited the Japanese "Emperor" to visit south Korea. And he has gone the length of saying that he would get "understanding" from the people full of rancour against the Japanese imperialists.

The recent trip to Japan is, in the final analysis, a sycophantic trip to Japan without parallel in history and one more blot on history of the nation.

Aid Campaign for N. Korea

(Continued from page 1)

WFP Deputy Executive Director Namanga Ngongi said that monitoring of relief shipments had become more transparent and that relief activities in the flood stricken areas gave him increased confidence that the resources were being and had been used "correctly."

He denied the claim by the MSF that Pyongyang had diverted aid from some of its flood victims to the government officials.

Mr. Ngongi, who returned from a five-day tour of DPRK flood stricken areas, reported that he saw no evidence of the charges of aid diversion.

U.S. Religious Group Promoting Aid Campaign For N. Korea

American religious groups are stepping up their efforts to aid flood-stricken DPRK with a new plan to ask congregations in the United States to pledge support with medical supplies and food for 12 provincial orphanages in the country.

According to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) on Sep. 23, United Methodists are also participating in plans to dispatch a freighter to north Korea with large quantities of food, medicine, medical supplies, seed, and fertilizer.

The ship will leave Houston, Texas, and reach the DPRK in February when the cargo will be most urgently needed, UMCOR said.

The organization pointed out that cargo will include 150,000 40-pound boxes of food, each containing 20 pounds of rice, and quantities of powered milk, shortening, canned vegetables and soups, cans of meat, fish or pork, and one pound of hard candies.

First U.S. Windpower Project

(Continued from page 1)

to their own people that tangible benefits might flow from cooperation with the United States rather than confrontation," he asserted.

The photographs provided by Nautilus include the windpower system, North Korean technicians and engineers, the household energy survey, and pictures of village households, the kindergarten, and the medical clinic receiving electricity from the windpower system.

The project is located at Unhira Village, about thirty miles north of Nampo City on the west coast of North Korea. The villagers farm rice on reclaimed land which was inundated last year when a twenty five foot tidal wave hit the shoreline, sweeping away large portions of the dike and destroying the rice fields.

The private project, funded by the W. Alton Jones Foundation in Virginia, is the first American non-governmental attempt to engage cooperatively with North Korea. Until now, non-governmental organizations have been limited by both the American and the North Korean governments to delivering food aid to North Korea.

The Nautilus Institute windpower team consisted of Dr. Peter Hayes, an Australian expert on Korean security issues and long time resident in the United States; Dr. Jim Williams, an American expert on renewable energy technologies; Mr. Mick Sagrillo, a leading American wind turbine construction engineer; Dr. David Von Hippel, an American analyst of North Korea's energy economy; and Mr. Chris Greacen, an American expert on rural electrification in developing countries.

The North Korean team consisted of electric power specialists and local village electricians and technicians. *(See Nautilus web site - http://www.nautilus.org)*

THE PEOPLE'S KOREA Published every two weeks by the Choson Sinbo Company. For further details, write to the Editorial Department. 2-4, Tsukudo-Hachiman-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel:03-3260-5881 Fax:03-3268-8583 E-Mail Address:pk@korea-np.co.jp Reproduction is not permitted without authorization.